



Anker Valley Newsletter

'Inspiring all to excellence'

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by thanking you for your understanding and support this week, as we have continued to be affected by cases of Covid in both staff and pupils. We are hoping that within the next couple of weeks, we will be able to return back to our face to face family assemblies. A huge thank you also to parents who have made donations for our loose parts play in Dragonflies – we really appreciate your generosity.

We have a busy few weeks ahead of us now, with lots of visits within our local area, story telling week and our special lunches. We cannot wait to share all of our wonderful experiences with you.

A link was sent out yesterday for our Spring Parents Survey. If you are able to take a few moments to complete it, we would really appreciate your feedback. Many thanks to those who have already completed it. There is still time if you have not yet completed it, using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=IkslyJx0OkWsK1eu8-7dfaGnOsR8diNDIUgoRhN-UQ5UQTdZVDJPRzFPMjZOMjZMODBVQU4wN0UwWC4u> Kind regards, Mrs Horlor.

Reminders About Parking and Smoking on School Grounds

Can we please remind all parents and carers that the parking restrictions outside the school gates must be adhered to. We are still having incidents of vehicles being parked on the double yellow lines, zig zag lines, single yellow line opposite and in the parking bays that are signposted for private use only. In addition to this, we have had neighbours' driveways blocked, our gates blocked, and the disabled space occupied. The restrictions have been put in place by the council to keep everybody safe and can be enforced by the local council in the form of penalty notices. So please help to keep our children and neighbours safe by parking respectfully.

Can we also remind all parents and carers that for the health and safety of our children and staff, the school grounds are strictly a non-smoking site and that this does include vaping.

What we have been learning about this week in Butterflies

This week Butterflies have been very busy in the outdoor area. They have been baking mud pies in the mud kitchen and building sandcastles. We talked about what makes seeds and bulbs grow, before planting some in the large planter. The children are very excited to see what will grow.

The snack area is open all day with the children hanging their fruit picture before sampling their choice. They cut their fruit, spread butter on toast and pour their choice of milk or water to drink. All waste is tipped away and the children put their plates in the bowl once finished. We're so proud of the independence that they have shown.



Congratulations!

Stars of the Week:

Ben & Edison
Winnie



Reader of the Week:

Nylah



Outstanding Citizen: Mya

Attendance

Dragonflies (This year): 93.68%

Dragonflies (This term): 94.57%

Dragonflies (This week): 92.63%

Congratulations to our children and parents in Dragonflies with 100% attendance this week:

Isla, Grayson, Ben, Jenson, Seb,

Hope, Edith, Michael, Edison,

Harper, Mya, Jayden, Nylah, Eva,

Tilly, Sophie, Evan, Ollie, Eva-Mae

Well done for being in school on time every day.

Our Pride Our Joy Nursery and Wrap Around Care

At Anker Valley, we pride ourselves on the close working relationship that we have with Our Pride Our Joy. It is important to us from a transition perspective, that the children in both Dragonflies and OPOJ get to know all the staff in the school. For this reason, there will be occasions where nursery will be invited to join in with whole school celebrations e.g., Number Day, Mother's Day lunch, etc. However, although within the same building, the nursery and wrap around are managed separately and any questions / queries should be directed to OPOJ staff so that your query can be dealt with swiftly. The main point of contact is Michelle Wootton on 01827 949318 or email mwootton@opoj.fierte.org.



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What we have been learning about this week in Dragonflies

In the outside area this week, some of the Dragonflies have helped to plant bulbs and herbs after a special delivery of some more soil for our planter. The children have made their binoculars from recycled materials and have been out spotting birds, as part of our continued work linked to the RSPB Big School Birdwatch.

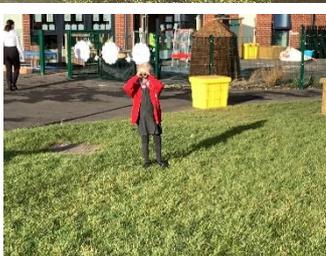
In class this week, we have made some changes to our timetable and the children have been self-registering using the interactive whiteboard, when they arrive in school. They find their photo and move it to one of the squares on the ten frames. The photos are then counted to see how many children are here or absent each day. After this, the children practise writing their names before exploring the continuous provision.

We have also introduced a voting station, where the children can vote for the story, they would like to hear each day at story time. The children have enjoyed picking different stories this week and have listened to: We Feel Happy, The Gruffalo, Whatever Next and Dinosaur Stomp! Dragonflies are looking forward to some exciting activities next week as part of 'National Story Telling Week, including a visit to Tamworth Library, Anker Valley Bedtime Story event and special visitors for our daily story time.

We have also started to use our wider outside area and the children are enjoying putting their wellies on to go exploring, playing the musical instruments, and reading outside too.

In phonics this week, the children have been introduced to the next four sounds, 'ur', 'ow', 'oi' and 'ear' and have been practising their handwriting using these new sounds. It's been lovely to see the children applying their phonics knowledge to their writing, using the sound mats in the classroom. Post it notes have also been popping up around the classroom with lots of lovely messages written on them!

From next week, reading books will be changed on a **Thursday** and library books will continue to be changed on a **Friday**. Rainbow reads will also be counted on a **Friday**. Please could we ask that your child's reading record is in daily to allow staff to write in them when listening to the children read in school.





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Dates for your Diary

Monday 31st January – Visit to the Library (Story Telling Week) and Bedtime Story 3:30 – 4:30

Friday 4th February - Number Day (Children to come dressed in numbers / as their favourite number)

Tuesday 8th February – Visit to St Editha's Church & Safer Internet Day

Monday 7th February – Non-Uniform Day (Chocolate donations for bingo night)

Friday 11th February - Bingo Night (tickets to go on sale very soon!)

Thursday 17th February – Visit to Spital Chapel

Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February – Half term

Tuesday 1st March - Pancake Day Race (More details soon!)

Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day (Children to come dressed as their favourite book character)

Tuesday 8th March and Thursday 10th March – Parents Consultations (Further details to follow)

Friday 18th March - Holi Festival of Colour

Friday 25th March - Mother's Day Lunch (Please book through Parentpay)

Thursday 7th April - Dragonflies Trip to Parkridge Centre

Friday 8th April – 9:00am - End of term assembly and Easter Bonnet Parade

Number Day

On **Friday 4th February**, we are inviting the children to come to school dressed as their favourite number. The children will have a fun-filled day where they will apply their maths knowledge in everyday contexts.

Here are some costume ideas...



Number Day 2022



Rainbow Readers

Congratulations to our Rainbow Readers this week!



Polling Day 3rd February



On **Thursday 3rd February**, our Year 1 classroom is being used for the Tamworth Borough Council elections. We therefore ask on this day, for **children to be dropped off and collected from the main office entrance**, as the side gates will remain locked for safeguarding purposes.



Happy 5th birthday to Freddie in Dragonflies!



We hope you had a lovely day filled with celebrations.
Best wishes, your Anker Valley Family.

Safeguarding— Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs Natalie Horlor (Head of School) nhorlor@ankervalley.org

Mrs Maria Hamblin (Executive Head teacher and CEO) CEO@fierte.org

Mrs Vicki Blundell (Safeguarding Lead Governor) office@ankervalley.org

The school Safeguarding Policy is available to view on our school website.